

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Capitol, Room S-128
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Capitol, Room S-146A
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Financial Services and
General Government
133 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Financial Services and
General Government
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As the Committee begins its consideration of the FY2011 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, we are writing to request support for the following projects.
Please note that these projects are in no particular order.

Project: Beaverton Business Incubation and Collaboration Center
Requestor: City of Beaverton, OR
Account: Small Business Administration
Amount Requested: \$450,000
Description: In 2006, the City of Beaverton founded the Oregon Technology Business Center (OTBC), a 501(c)(3) that serves entrepreneurs and small business owners. Beaverton continues to provide OTBC with funding for its operations. OTBC provides coaching, networking events, educational seminars, lunch programs, and entrepreneurship programs. Beaverton seeks to provide incubation services to entrepreneurs. This would provide flexible office space for working entrepreneurs, collaborative working spaces, and a meeting/conference space to invite investors and business partners to discuss funding opportunities and teach entrepreneurial groups.

The Beaverton Business Incubation and Collaboration Center (BBICC) will create jobs by helping entrepreneurs build and execute solid business plans. Beaverton has very strong human capital, many of whom are currently unemployed. The Economic Development Administration found that incubators are the most effective means of creating jobs. \$450,000 in Federal funding will be matched equally by Beaverton to purchase a building to serve as incubator space for BBICC. The effectiveness of the incubator will be measured directly against the number of jobs that are created by the new facility, particularly as compared with OTBC's operations prior to the establishment of the incubator space.

Project: Downtown Revitalization "Toolbox" Program

Requestor: City of Salem, Oregon

Account: Small Business Administration

Amount Requested: \$450,000

Description: In 2003, the downtown core of Salem, Oregon had over 100,000 square feet of vacant space. The majority of the vacant space was located in five large vacant historic buildings which had previously been department stores. By leveraging funding sources, Salem has been able to reduce building vacancies.

A thirty-six member downtown task force, in conjunction with the Downtown Development Advisory Board, developed a set of financial incentives to encourage property owners to undertake redevelopment of their buildings, which they titled the "Toolbox" program. The "Toolbox" program contains a variety of financial incentives to encourage revitalization, preservation of historic buildings and new construction within the downtown core. Programs include interior and exterior matching grant funds, below market interest rate commercial loans, and special housing opportunity funds to encourage development of all types of housing in the downtown core.

Toolbox funds can be used to address code violations, ADA accessibility and seismic upgrades, environmental mitigation, energy efficient upgrades, and new construction. Recent program revisions encourage redevelopment of vacant and underutilized second floor space for start-up businesses and artists in our community. This program has successfully been used to renovate and preserve over 30 buildings in the downtown historic district of Salem. In addition, Toolbox funds have been used to create 35 for-rent housing units in the downtown core.

Project: Business Center Incubator Expansion/Renovation

Requestor: Oregon International Port of Coos Bay

Account: Small Business Administration

Amount Requested: \$453,800

Description: The project will expand and renovate the existing Business Center Incubator building, located in the Southwest Oregon Regional Airport's Business Park in North Bend. The existing facility was opened back in 1996 and has been such a tremendous success that for the past two years there has been a wait list of fledgling businesses desiring access to the facility. There are currently ten businesses on the list, consisting of auto repair, furniture and cabinet woodworking, fishing lures, quads for kids, retail and manufacturing. The project will include the completion and paving of the south side driveway and existing east side gravel area, the division of large bay #1 into two smaller bays with a roll-up door, electrical sub-panel and meter; division of large bay #2 into three smaller bays each with roll-up and main doors, electrical sub-panels and meters; new lighting and heating systems.

The additional capacity will immediately allow the Port to provide space and services to five of the ten businesses currently on the waiting list. Typically two jobs per bay are created with additional employees as the businesses grow, expand and graduate into the community. This project is the number one project for the State of Oregon's Infrastructure Inventory program. The CCD Regional Investment Board and State of Oregon use these successful created and saved jobs with their future budget planning.

Project: Swan Island Training Center
Requestor: Portland Community College
Account: Small Business Administration
Amount Requested: \$250,000

Description: A critical element to the continued prosperity and competitiveness of Portland's unique manufacturing base is the availability of a skilled workforce, particularly in the area of the metal trades. Many area employers are unable to find enough trained applicants to fill available positions. Portland Community College (PCC) and Vigor Industrial formed a partnership in 2007 to confront this challenge by creating a center to train welders at Vigor Industrial's facility. Vigor Industrial provides the classroom and equipment at its shipyard while PCC provides the administration and instructors for the program. This request would expand the program by 44 students, providing valuable training for the students and providing trained workers for area businesses.

Project: Oregon Bioscience Entrepreneur and Small Business Center (OBEC)
Requestor: Oregon Translational Research and Drug Development Institute
Account: Small Business Administration
Amount Requested: \$453,800

Description: Key to enhancing job and company creation in the bioscience sector is access to great ideas, a collaborative/entrepreneurial environment close to medical school and university bioscience resources, dedicated venture capital, and management expertise. The State of Oregon, through the Oregon Translational Research and Drug Development Institute (OTRADI), with Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), the Oregon University System (OUS), Portland State University (PSU), the City of Portland, the Portland Development Commission (PDC), the Oregon Bioscience Association (OBA), and private industry, supports enhancement of bioscience cluster development and the establishment of an Oregon Bioscience Entrepreneur Center (OBEC) to serve as a small business incubator for bioscience start-up companies. The Oregon State Board of Higher Education and the Oregon Legislature recently approved capital construction bonds for an estimated 300,000 sq. ft. Life Sciences Collaborative Complex (LSCC) to be located in the S. Waterfront district of Portland. The LSCC is a project sponsored by OUS (including OSU, PSU and the University of Oregon (UO)) and OHSU to promote biomedical research and educational collaboration between bioscience-related departments in each of the universities and enhance commercialization of biomedical research in Oregon. OHSU's medical school, physician assistant, pharmacy, physiology, clinical psychology, translational research, technology transfer and other bioscience-related departments from each university (PSU, U of O, OSU and OHSU) will be housed in the LSCC. The LSCC complex will include teaching and research facilities along with the commercial bioscience incubator facility. The OBEC is an integral part of the LSCC. The plans for the OBEC envision 20,000 square feet of incubator space and shared facilities.

Federal funds will be used to supplement state funding, private donations and foundation support for OBEC building and development. In addition to space in the OBEC for start-up companies, dedicated anchor tenants for the commercial facility include OTRADI, the Oregon Bioscience Association and collaborative offices for university technology transfer and commercialization.

Project: Materials Exchange Lab
Requestor: City of Portland

Account: Small Business Administration

Amount Requested: \$453,800

Description: Federal funding would be used to create a west coast, Portland-based collection of materials for design firms and education institutions. The lab will spur innovation to help companies involved in industries such as architecture, interior and landscape design, industrial design, footwear and apparel. The lab will include: 1) a physical collection of materials and finishes, and information about those materials (properties, availability, price, etc.); 2) an on-site material archive (searchable database); and 3) materials research assistants, sourcing experts and scientists. The lab will promote collaboration, connection and a deepened well of innovation to maximize business and design competitiveness and evolve Portland's standing as a significant global design leader. Success within the design world demands constant innovation. In order for design firms to remain competitive, increase sales, and expand their workforce, they need to be able to access new materials and processes as often as every month. Right now, the only similar facility is in New York City. For Portland and Oregon based firms, it is prohibitive in both cost and distance.

Project: Oregon Minority Business Technical Assistance Program

Requestor: Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

Account: Small Business Administration

Amount Requested: \$139,000

Description: Funds will be used to expand technical services to 150 minority businesses throughout Oregon with an emphasis on Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties. The Hispanic Chamber will assess the needs of the businesses, develop a plan of assistance, and work with the businesses to implement the plan. The Chamber will provide technical assistance for businesses to receive proper licenses and permits; access to financing, both traditional and non-traditional; access to public and private contracting opportunities; and other services as needed.

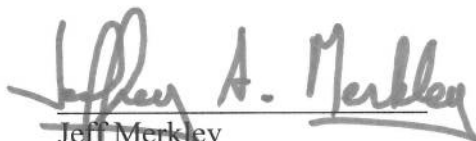
Additionally, we certify that neither ourselves nor our immediate family have a pecuniary interest, consistent with the requirements of Paragraph 9 of rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, in any congressionally directed spending item that we requested in this letter. We further certify that we have posted a description of the items requested on our official websites, along with the accompanying justification.

Thank you for your consideration of these worthy projects. We appreciate your strong and continued leadership and look forward to working with you this year on funding vital to our nation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Isaiah Akin in Senator Wyden's office at 224-5244, or Ms. Courtney Thompson in Senator Merkley's office at 224-3753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Wyden".

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff A. Merkley".

Jeff Merkley
United States Senator